polyester fabric. Each of the fabric samples of FIGS. **1***a*, **1***c*, and **1***e* had a stain-barrier applied. For comparison, FIGS. **1***b*, **1***d*, and **1***f* respectively shown: a cotton fabric, a nylon fabric, and a polyester fabric. The samples of FIGS. **1***b*, **1***d*, and **1***f* do not have a stain barrier applied.

Fresh, undiluted mouse blood was applied to each fabric using a micropipette. The same amount was applied to all six samples. Clearly, the stains on the bottom vary in size. Since all stains were made using the same amount of blood, stains differing in size also differ in concentration. Therefore, one could not accurately and precisely compare the detection responses of a liquid on different substrates without use of the presently presented stain-barrier.

These and other modifications and variations to the present invention may be practiced by those of ordinary skill in the art, without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention, which is more particularly set forth in the appended claims. In addition, it should be understood the aspects of the various embodiments may be interchanged both in whole or in part. Furthermore, those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the foregoing description is by way of example only, and is not intended to limit the invention so further described in the appended claims.

What is claimed:

1. A method of forming a sample area on a fabric, the method comprising:

protecting a portion of the fabric;

applying an inert barrier composition onto the fabric around the portion protected; and

drying the inert barrier composition to form an inert barrier coating; and

exposing the protected portion of the fabric such that the sample area is surrounded by the inert barrier coating.

2. The method of claim **1**, wherein the inert barrier coating comprises a cement.

3. The method of claim **2**, wherein the cement comprises a resin and a solvent system.

4. The method of claim **3**, wherein the resin comprises a polyvinyl chloride resin.

5. The method of claim **4**, wherein the solvent system comprises tetrahydrofuran, methyl ethyl ketone, acetone, cyclohexanone, or mixtures thereof.

6. The method of claim **5**, wherein the solvent system comprises tetrahydrofuran, methyl ethyl ketone, acetone, and cyclohexanone.

7. The method of claim **1**, wherein the fabric defines a first surface and a second opposite surface, and wherein the fabric is protected on the first surface and the second surface.

8. The method of claim **1**, wherein the inert barrier composition saturates the fabric around the sample area.

9. The method of claim **1**, wherein the fabric defines a first surface and a second opposite surface, and wherein the inert barrier composition is applied to both first surface and the second opposite surface of the fabric.

10. The method of claim **1**, wherein the fabric comprises a woven fabric.

11. The method of claim **10**, wherein the fabric comprises cotton fibers, nylon fibers, polyester fibers, silk fibers, or mixtures thereof.

12. The method of claim **1**, wherein drying the inert barrier composition is achieved at 25° C.

13. The method of claim **1**, wherein drying the inert barrier composition is performed by heating the inert barrier composition up to 100° C.

14. The method of claim **1**, further comprising:

applying a blood sample to the sample area, wherein the blood sample saturates the fabric in the sample area but is prevented from migrating out of the sample area by the inert barrier coating.

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